

Mission Department Newsletter

Encouraging Missionary Disciples



February 2009



Happy new year from the Mission Department at Baptist House! As the newest staff member in the re-organised department, it's a great experience to work in the team and with the many working groups and networks linked to the department, all aiming to resource the local church in sharing the good news of Jesus. Sadly, we will be losing Terry Jones from the team in March when he retires, and we are grateful for the terrific work he's done as part of the department.

This is the year some UK denominations have designated as 'The Year of the Child'. As part of BUGB's children's strategy, we sent out the DVD 'Will YOU make A difference?' to every church in November and we hope you are finding this stimulating to your own working with children. Another good resource 'Building Blocks' is now on the BUGB website to help your toddler group be both child friendly and mission focused. I am also facilitating our education working group in developing resources this year to encourage good contact with local schools and I would love to receive any stories of how your church is doing that.

This month, we begin a regular feature from around the Associations. As we move towards Easter, check out what SEBA is doing with daffodils! Also watch out for on-line downloadable resources we are producing for Holy Week services. Before then, check out the low-key evangelistic ideas for Valentine's weekend.

Hoping to see you at one of our events soon, Kathryn Morgan

In this edition:

Events

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 8-14 February | Fresh Horizons Time Out Scheme at Levenshulme, Manchester |
| 11 February | Estate Churches Day *** closing date for bookings is Friday 6 February *** |
| 21 February | Fresh Horizons Tour - Stanmore Baptist Church, London |
| 28 February | Fresh Horizons Tour - Maghull Baptist Church, Merseyside |
| 4 March | Children and Family Workers' Day |
| 30 June - 2 July | The Really Useful Evangelism Conference |
| 27 September | Back to Church Sunday |

Resources

- New Mission Files: *Sharing a Message of Love on Valentine's Day* and updated *Money Advice*
- New Resources for Holy Week, produced in partnership with BMS World Mission
- Will You Make a Difference?* DVD
- Building Blocks*: A training resource for those in church-based toddler groups
- Teachers Transform Lives* DVD
- American Interim Pastors Ministry

Mission Ideas and Resources from around the Associations

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|-------|----------------------------|
| SEBA: | SEBA Is Blooming Brilliant |
| | Building for Growth |
| NBA: | The Big Sing |

Estate Churches Day

Wednesday 11 February

A day for sharing stories of estate work, to support one another and listen afresh to God

- Venue: Rising Brook Baptist Church, Stafford
Main speaker: Jack Walker - Leigh Park Baptist Church, Havant
Time: 1030 (Registration) - 1500
Cost: £20 including refreshments and working lunch

This event is organised by the Baptist Union Mission Department
Please book your place by Friday 6 February

For more information and to book your place see:
www.baptist.org.uk/training_events/other.html

Alternatively please contact:

For bookings: Carole - 01235 517713 / calder@baptist.org.uk



Fresh Horizons

It's not too late to come to one of the **Fresh Horizons** events which inform, inspire and initiate mission and ministry among third-age seniors.

The final two venues for the **Fresh Horizons National Tour** are:

Saturday 21 February at Stanmore Baptist Church, London
Saturday 28 February at Maghull Baptist Church, Merseyside.

Further details and booking forms are available from Carole Alder 01235 517713 calder@baptist.org.uk or see the website: http://www.baptist.org.uk/training_events/other.html

There is also space to join the Levenshulme team for the **Fresh Horizons Time Out Scheme** from 8-14 February. See the video at http://www.baptist.org.uk/training_events/docs/TimeOut.mpg for details and call Terry on 01235 517712 to find out more.

Children and Family Specialists' Network Facilitation Day

10:30 - 15:00
Wednesday 4 March
Baptist House, Didcot

The Mission Department is to create a Network to support the vital work of all Children and Family Specialists employed by Baptist churches by linking workers together in order to offer mutual support and encouragement. In order to introduce and launch the Network, we will host a Facilitation Day at Baptist House, Didcot on Wednesday 4 March 2009. The event is open to all Children and Family Specialists who are employed by Baptist churches.

The day will include worship, specialist insight from our keynote speaker, the Revd Richard Hardy – Head of Church Relations for **Care for the Family**, personal testimony and interaction.

A booking form is available at:

http://www.baptist.org.uk/training_events/other.html and completed forms should be returned to Carole Alder with a cheque for £15 to cover lunch and admin costs. Confirmation of the booking will be made by return post and will include directions and parking details. Please submit your booking forms **by Friday 20 February**. However, we expect strong support for the event and places will be limited, so early bookings are encouraged.

The work of our Children and Family Specialists is vital to the wellbeing of our churches, and those on the front-line need the support and encouragement of the wider Baptist community. The Union will be responsive to their needs and the Network will be developed in line with their active participation. All Children and Family Specialists are warmly invited to attend the Facilitation Day – please give this invitation your widest circulation and help us to provide a Network that will help you.





The Really Useful Evangelism Conference

(previously advertised as Encouraging Missionary Disciples: The Evangelism Conference)

Tuesday 30 June - Thursday 2 July 2009

Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church

Open to all, the Conference will re-examine how to tell the gospel story in today's world and help enable others in our churches to be missionary disciples bringing others to faith.

The conference will include stimulating keynote addresses from:

- » **Dennis Pethers** (Viz-a-Viz Ministries)
- » **Roy Searle** (Northumbria community)
- » **Juliet Kilpin** (Urban Expression)
- » **Phil Collins** (Saltmine)
- » **Kingsley Appiagyei** (BUGB President 2009-2010)
- » **Jonathan Edwards** (BUGB General Secretary)

We will also be offering a variety of themed workshops, led by experienced practitioners, to help equip evangelists to tell the gospel story. Each day will include times of worship and the evenings will conclude with an after-hours programme with Taste (Viz-a-Viz Ministries) and the Saltmine Theatre Company.

The cost for this exciting and important conference is £70 per person.

To learn more, and to book your place, please go to:

http://www.baptist.org.uk/training_events/evangelism_conference.html

Please return your booking to the Mission Department by Friday 29 May

For information about accommodation available in the Sutton Coldfield area, see:

<http://www.locallife.co.uk/suttoncoldfield/accomodation.asp>



Back to Church Sunday - 27 September 2009

On 27 September 2009, thousands of people will be inviting someone special back to church with them. People lose touch with church for all sorts of reasons but millions would come back with an invitation.

On Back to Church Sunday 2008, people in more than 400 Baptist churches invited and welcomed back over 5,000 friends - we hope and pray that Baptist churches will add Back to Church Sunday to their plans for 2009 and begin preparing to invite and welcome people back. Again this year, we will be taking orders for the packs and providing help for your preparation, and resources for your service. We're currently updating the Mission Files produced for Back to Church Sunday 2008, but these, and other resources will be available soon from the website. Keep checking at: <http://www.baptist.org.uk/b2cs>



This year's theme, **Come as You Are**, is all about a warm welcome. Three packs will be available providing all you need to advertise, invite and welcome people and these will be available through the Mission Department. For full details of what is included in each pack, please see the website: <http://www.baptist.org.uk/b2cs>

We will need to receive your order and payment by **Friday 29 May**, so please start considering how your church can get involved this year. The packs will be despatched in June.

New Resources

Money Advice Mission File



This Mission File has recently been updated, with current statistics and even more information about sources of help and advice. At this time of financial anxiety and concern, this is a valuable resource to help churches support those who are struggling.

The Mission File is freely downloadable from: www.baptist.org.uk/resources/resource_downloads/383.pdf

Sharing a Message of Love on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day (14 February) is a popular event in current culture with an estimated one billion cards sent each year, so this provides an excellent opportunity for the church to show, and talk about, God's love in a variety of ways.

We have therefore produced this new Mission File which gives a whole range of low-key evangelistic ideas that can be adapted easily to suit local circumstances.



New Resources for Holy Week



In partnership with BMS World Mission, we are currently developing some new resources for use in churches during Holy Week. These will be available soon from:

http://www.baptist.org.uk/resources/mission_evangelism.html

If you use any of these ideas, to help share a message of love in your church on Valentine's Day, let us know how you get on!

Download your copy from: www.baptist.org.uk/resources/resource_downloads/446.pdf

If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of these or any other Mission Files, please contact Carole on 01235 517713 or email calder@baptist.org.uk

2009 - A Year of the Child?

2009 marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations 'Year of the Child' and the 20th anniversaries of the establishment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UK Children Act. We are pleased to tell you about three new resources which can be used by your church in its work with children and young people.

Will YOU make A difference?

To mark these anniversaries, and give an opportunity for the Church to adopt 2009 as a celebration of children and childhood, a DVD of resources has been produced by the Children Matter! partnership of organisations (which includes the Baptist Union of Great Britain) and the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children (CGMC). The **Will YOU make A difference?** DVD is a collection of resources to help churches to review, challenge, inspire and celebrate their work with children.



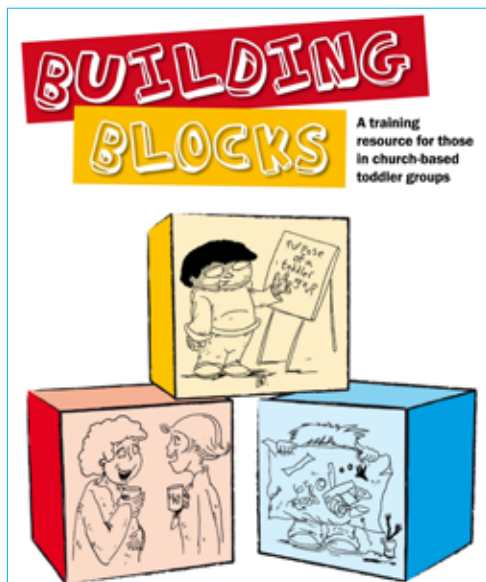
We were delighted to be able to send a copy of the DVD free of charge to every Church Secretary in November 2008 and encourage you to take time to explore the collection of helpful resources contained on it. The resources are suitable for use in deacons' meetings, church meetings, services and by homegroups.

Please encourage all church members to pray about the church's existing work with children and young people, to celebrate their contribution in the life of the church and community, and seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in determining a renewed vision for the children in your community.

We still have a few spare copies of the DVD, so please let us know if you would like to receive another copy. Please contact Carole on 01235 517713 or calder@baptist.org.uk to request an extra copy, free of charge.

Building Blocks:

A training resource for those in church-based toddler groups



Are you planning to start a new toddler group? Or looking to review the focus, direction and achievements of an existing one? We are delighted to be able to tell you about a new free resource, launched on 23 January at the Children's Ministry Conference, which will be an invaluable tool for all those working in church-based toddler groups, or thinking about starting one.

Building Blocks has been written by members of the Carer And Toddler Strategy (CATS) consultative group which includes members of Christian mission organisations and practitioners from across different denominations, including Baptist Union of Great Britain, Fegans (Parent and Toddler Groups Together), Go Project, Scripture Union, and The Salvation Army. Between them, the contributors have a vast array of knowledge, understanding and bright ideas for running and resourcing toddler groups. More importantly, they share an earnest desire to encourage, equip and support all those who are, or who plan to be, involved in leading such groups.

Toddler groups are amongst the most exciting and significant starting places for mission and evangelism that exist in the United Kingdom today. But too often their outreach importance and potential are undervalued. *Building Blocks* aims to encourage and equip group leaders and helpers to be more effective and better supported in this vital ministry. Even as the material was being prepared, the writers learned much from each other and were re-enthused and inspired for this vital work. It is their hope and prayer that, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, you will likewise be inspired, helped and encouraged.

This new resource is available for download from the Baptist Union website now from:
http://www.baptist.org.uk/resources/mission_evangelism.html

Teachers Transform Lives

Children deserve the best start in life, and teachers who are Christian can reach every aspect of a child's life. They are 'frontline ministers' who create an environment where lives can be transformed, and they may even be the only person the children encounter who shows what God is like and that he loves them.

This new Toolkit has been designed for use by churches and Christian organisations by the Transforming Lives Project - a cross-denominational initiative. It explores the vocation of teaching and offers many ideas and resources for use in services, with small groups, in youth meetings and with students.

The resource has three main objectives:

- » To encourage more Christians to become teachers
- » To support Christian teachers currently in post
- » To encourage churches to support Christian teachers in their important ministry in schools

The Toolkit is available as a complete and self-contained DVD from the Stapleford Centre's online shop:

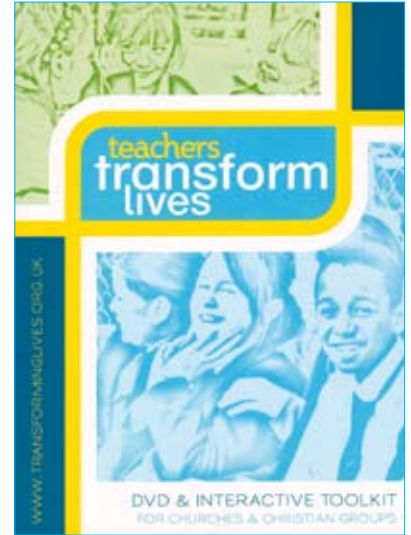
<http://www.stapleford-centre.org/bookshop/>

It includes high resolution videos of projection-quality.

You can also access most of the resources from:

<http://www.transforminglives.org.uk/toolkit.php>

including downloadable lower-resolution videos for individual viewing.



Education Sunday - 8 February 2009

For well over a hundred years there has been an annual recognition of Education Sunday in England and Wales. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. Many ideas are available from <http://www.educationsunday.org> to help you prepare for your own celebration on or around Education Sunday. The theme this year is 'The earth is the Lord's - how then shall we teach?' If you feel unable to devote a whole service to celebrating the theme, you may want to use some of the ideas on other occasions, such as at the start or end of the academic year, either in your church, or in local schools, colleges and universities.

American Interim Pastor Ministries

American Interim Pastor Ministries, Inc (AIPM) recruits retired ministers and laypersons that God would call to interim pastoral ministry to serve as volunteers in Britain. American interim pastors have served thirteen UK Baptist churches since 2000, coming alongside church members to help with the responsibilities of ministry to both the fellowship and the community.

The objective is to try to identify ways to reach un-churched people and grow the church to the point that the stipend for a British Baptist pastor is available and a suitable pastor can be located.

An interim pastor can be a fresh source of energy from outside the fellowship to inspire members as they serve God and their community.

The financial commitment by the British church will be to:

- reimburse the volunteer interim pastor for visa applications
- provide air fare for the American interim pastor couple to and from the UK
- provide a furnished house or flat
- pay utility bills
- provide a car with insurance, road taxes and repairs



The American interim pastor will receive no salary or any other form of remuneration.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the opportunity to invite an American interim pastor to minister with your church, see the new Mission File and AIPM booklet at:

http://www.baptist.org.uk/resources/mission_evangelism_resources.asp?section=31

or contact the department on 01235 517713.



SEBA is blooming brilliant

The South Eastern Baptist Association (SEBA) is encouraging its churches to get involved in this new initiative: an opportunity for churches across the south-east to do something positive for their communities, showing that they are about being good news, at the same time taking opportunity to explain the Easter story.



At its heart are the following points:

- Christians care for God’s creation
- Christians want to make the towns they live in brighter
- Spring flowers are a sign of the new life we have in Christ

Working in cooperation with local councils, the process starts this summer with bulb and tree planting and distribution of leaflets explaining the project. This will be followed in Spring 2010 with caring for the new flowers, tidying-up and distribution of Easter cards.



A pilot scheme is being run at the moment in Gravesend with the Revd Penny Marsh, the SEBA Missioner in North Kent. The council responded warmly to the idea and the local B&Q provided many of the bulbs. This Easter will show what impact this has had on the local community where the bulbs have been planted – although there has already been some positive feedback just from the planting stage.

How about trying this in your community?

Building for Growth

The South Eastern Baptist Association is also offering a day for churches on 28 February called Building for Growth. In conjunction with Living Stones Trust they will be addressing issues such as planning or changing church buildings for mission, seeing buildings as mission tools, fund raising and mission shaped church. Hopefully this will be helpful to those concerned about building with bricks and those concerned with building with people.

For more information about the day, please contact Regional Minister Stuart Davison on stuart@seba-baptist.org.uk or ring 01444 253163. If your church is not in SEBA, you may be interested in finding out more about Living Stones from <http://www.living-stones.org.uk>



The Big Sing



The Northern Baptist Association has a substantial number of small churches, many of whom find difficulty in providing music for their services and meetings. At the instigation of Ian Britton, communications officer and John Singleton, regional minister, it was decided to hold a Sunday evening event where a blend of older hymns and newer worship songs could be sung by a congregation made up of the churches in the NBA, and recorded for distribution to the smaller churches. The evening would take the form of an act of worship, the songs and hymns interspersed by readings and prayers. The only missing ingredient, because of time constraints, being a sermon! The aim would be to record around 15 hymns and songs at each recording.

The first event at Westgate Baptist Church in October 2007 attracted 130 people, who sang their hearts out for 90 minutes and then shared fellowship and refreshments. This was followed in 2008 by further recordings at Cambridge Road Baptist Church, Middlesbrough and Durham Road Baptist Church, Gateshead.

Following recording, Ian Britton edits the sound, adds the words and still or video backgrounds, and makes CD and DVD copies. The copying of the material is covered by a special license from CCLI.



The DVDs and CDs are available to both churches and individuals for a cost of £5, and the demand is gradually increasing. All the churches that need to use them are a CD player or a DVD player and a TV, and have the added benefit that they are singing along with a large congregation.

The regional staff also have the material available to use as they take services around the Association.

Those hymns out of copyright are also posted on YouTube and some of these have had over 20,000 hits. We have received a considerable amount of feedback from those who have viewed the hymns, expressing thanks or testifying to a rekindled faith or new awareness of God.

The next Big Sing recording will be at Easington Lane Independent Methodist Church on the evening of 21 June 2009.

For more information, including sample downloadable recordings of songs in the public domain, please see the NBA website:

<http://www.thenba.org.uk/thebigsing.htm>

If you would like to order a copy of the DVDs and CDs, please contact Regional Minister John Singleton on johnsingleton@thenba.org.uk or ring 01642 655551.



Subscribe FREE to Evangelism UK

This service, provided by the Churches Coordinating Group for Evangelisation, gives news from churches and agencies in England which is relevant to local evangelism. See <http://www.evangelismuk.typepad.com> for details.

We need your help!!

Have you ever put on a **successful evangelistic social event** at your church with a visiting after-dinner speaker or entertainer? We're trying to put together a list of recommended speakers/singers/entertainers etc, which may be a useful resource for other churches to draw upon for their evangelistic events. They may be fairly 'big name' speakers, or less well-known folk who have a particular gift and story to share. What we are looking for are names of people who you would recommend to other churches.

If you can recommend someone, please get in touch to share your comments and experiences, including details of the venue, kind of audience, and approximate date of the event. Please contact Mary on mparker@baptist.org.uk or ring 01235 517714. Thank you.

For more ideas for mission in your local area please contact your local association or college (see contact details below) or contact the department on 01235 517713 / email mission@baptist.org.uk

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